

MOVING BEYOND TRANSITION
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ABSTRACT

Integrating emerging community wellbeing frameworks into social assessments to support communities through transition

Communities around Australia are facing rapid change and transition – such as regional and remote communities hosting energy infrastructure, mining assets closing, or urban communities hosting new technologies to deal with our waste crisis. Major infrastructure and development projects often bring significant change and disruption and uncertainty to communities. Understanding and measuring community wellbeing, especially in times of uncertainty, is becoming increasingly important. The methods and metrics used to assess community wellbeing can greatly influence long-term outcomes for communities. Understanding and measuring wellbeing has gained momentum, as evidenced by the recent Measuring What Matters framework released by the Australian Government in 2023. This framework emphasises the importance of a comprehensive approach to evaluating wellbeing in the context of development. Social impact assessments play a key role in examining the impacts and benefits of major infrastructure and development projects on local communities. Social impact management plans are also emerging as a tool used by infrastructure projects to manage impacts on communities, monitor them over time, and enhance the benefits to communities. This presentation will delve into the emerging community wellbeing approaches and frameworks and explore examples of how they are effectively integrated into social impact management plans to better support communities undergoing transitions. By applying the principles from frameworks such as the Measuring What Matters framework, this presentation will demonstrate how social impact assessments and social impact management plans can be more responsive and adapted to effectively measure community wellbeing factors, and ultimately support communities experience transition.



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Three key takeaways

1. Enhanced understanding of community wellbeing metrics and frameworks.
2. Contribute to the ongoing dialogue on improving social impact assessments and social impact management plans.
3. Enhancing approaches to how infrastructure projects can better support communities experiencing transitions

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Courtney Granger

Courtney is a qualified planner at GHD who specialises in social research and planning, as well as data analysis, to understand community and stakeholder needs and challenges. She ensures these are thoroughly considered and assessed throughout a project's lifecycle. She has prepared social baselines, conducted social impact assessments, and participated in engagement activities for major urban renewal and greenfield developments, transport infrastructure, resource projects, and renewable energy projects. Passionate about human-centered design, Courtney is dedicated to planning and designing equitable and environmentally sustainable spaces that enhance the wellbeing of people and communities.

Stephanie is a senior social sustainability consultant at GHD, with expertise in social impact assessment, social research, and stakeholder engagement. She has a wealth of experience conducting social impact assessments across various industries including mining, renewable energy, water and transport infrastructure, and urban planning in Australia and internationally.